

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt173

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



Center for Independent Living
for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

Located at UW-Stout
Menomonie, WI 54751

April 22, 1997

Senator Brian Burke, Co-Chair, Joint Finance
Representative Scott Jensen, Co-Chair, Joint Finance

Dear Senator Burke, Representative Jensen, and Members of the Joint Finance
Committee:

I am the Director of the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, a non-profit organization that serves persons with a disability, including elderly, in a 10 county area of Western Wisconsin. Our goal is to facilitate individuals being able to live and participate in their community to the greatest extent possible.

The great state of Wisconsin is comprised of many communities and the strength of those communities is the individuals who live, work, recreate, and volunteer there. That includes the sizable number of persons with disabilities (estimated to be 10 per cent of the general population) and the increasing number of persons who are elderly. It is of grave concern that it continues to be easier to put someone in an institution, particularly a nursing home, than to provide services of equal costs in the community. Families with a disabled member face increasing shortages in services to support keeping their member at home but find doors open to institutional care. I urge you to "Keep a Community Promise" and support the following:

- 1. Increases in the Community Options Program (COP):** The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$132 million increase for nursing homes, but only \$5 million increase for COP, an increase of 400 slots. An equal increase of \$132 million for COP would allow 13,000 more people to be served by COP/COP Waiver, eliminating the 8,900 people on statewide waiting lists.
- 2. Specialized Transportation:** The Governor's proposal includes \$12 million for the Brewers to move a highway but only \$600,000 increases for specialized transportation for elders and people with disabilities. Please put a higher priority on human needs.

3. Medical Assistance (Title 19) Co-Payments: The poorest of the poor cannot afford increases in co-pays. Please do not support the Governor's proposal to increase ALL co-pays to federal allowable maximums.

4. Non-Institution Medical Assistance Providers (Such as Home Health Agencies, dentists, etc): The Governor proposes a 1% increase (MUCH LOWER THAN THE PROPOSED INCREASE FOR NURSING HOMES!!). Please support a minimum increase of 3%, and a higher increase for Personal Care and Dentists whose MA reimbursement rates cause increasing difficulties in finding providers/workers willing to work for the MA rate.

5. Family Support and Birth to Three: These programs enable families to keep their disabled family member home but have received no proposed increases in the Governor's budget. Please provide \$4 million to eliminate the 1822-family waiting list for the Family Support Program and the DHFS proposed re-estimate for the Birth to Three Program.

6. SSI and AFDC: The Governor's proposes to eliminate the AFDC payments to 1,500 families headed by a parent with a disability on SSI, and replace them with a \$77 per child monthly payment to the parent. This represents a 65% loss of income to an average family. I urge you to provide a state supplement equal to the amount a family received from AFDC or the kinship care level of \$215 per child per month.

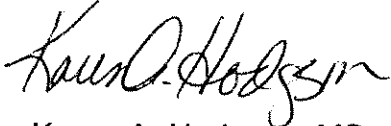
7. CIP 1B Rate: A minimal 3% inflationary rate increase is needed to help adults get out of nursing homes to live on their own; the Governor's proposal contains no rate increase, while as stated earlier there is a SIGNIFICANT increase proposed for nursing homes.

8. Long-Term Care Redesign and Behavioral Health Pilot Program: There are tremendous and significant changes being proposed in the delivery of long-term care services. There is no funding for pilots in the Governor's proposal. These dramatic changes need to be tested through pilots as recommended by DHFS to assure that the new systems truly are cost efficient as well as quality services.

9. Independent Living Centers: The eight independent living centers in Wisconsin serve an ever increasing number of persons with a disability throughout the state yet have had no increase in base funding for over 5 years. I urge you to provide an additional increase of \$200,000 per year to be divided among the centers.

Thank you for your attention to these requests. I am available at 715 898-2900 to answer questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Hodgson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Hodgson" clearly distinguishable.

Karen A. Hodgson, MS
Executive Director

Chippewa Falls Area School District



"Together we can make a difference!"

April 22, 1997

To the Joint Finance Committee:

As a parent, community member, school counselor and AODA Coordinator, **I am extremely opposed to the transfer of school AODA program funds from the DPI to the Department of Human and Family Resources (Assembly Bill 100 / Senate Bill 77).**

Drug use and violence-prone behaviors are rising at an alarming rate in the Chippewa Falls community. In fact, it is at record levels in most areas of concern. Drug use and abuse is occurring at an earlier age than ever before. Last spring the Chippewa Falls School District surveyed over 1000 students in grades 8th, 10th and 12th. We found that drug use among our 8th graders has increased at staggering rates:

- Marijuana use has increased from 2% (1993) to 25% (1996)
- Alcohol consumption has increased from 41% (1993) to 49% (1996)
- Cigarette use has increased from 24% (1993) to 49% (1996)

Juvenile crime involving alcohol and other drugs have increased significantly from 15% to 400% between 1995 and 1996.

Our children and our communities are facing a crisis of record proportion. **Now is not the time to dismantle and fragment AODA programs. The Department of Public Instruction has been an effective and vital system in administering and assisting education programs to address AODA issues.**

If you remove this funding, you will literally and adversely affect literally thousands of children and ultimately the safety and health of our communities.

Please leave the AODA funding and administration where it can most effectively be administered...with the DPI. In other words, "If it's not broken, please don't fix it!"

Respectfully,

Judi Gunderman
Judi Gunderman

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Program

MAUREEN A. MCGINNITY - President
Foley & Lardner

HAROLD O.M. ROCHA - VP & Secretary
UW Law School

NANCY D. FORTNEY
Treasurer
U.S. Marketing Corporation

DOROTHY BUCKHANAN
Milwaukee Employer Accords

SHERRI N. COE-PERKINS
Marquette University

MICHAEL G. DAVIS
Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism
& Drug Dependence

LINDA L. DAVIS
Community Volunteer

MARY GLASS
Campaign Neighborhood, Inc.

SUSAN A. LUEGER
Northwestern Mutual Life

SUSAN J. MARKS
Prostaff

JUDITH C. MURPHY
M & I Trust Company

SALLY R. PELTZ
Medical College of Wisconsin

RICHARD W. SCHULZE
Hornischleger Industries

PATRICIA B. SHIRLEY
Milwaukee County Medical
Health Complex

CARY SILVERSTEIN
JH Collectibles

ANITA K. SPENCER
Project Respect

BARBARA STEIN
Community Activist

MARTIN F. STEIN
EyeCare One

ALLAN R. STRAUSS
Attorney at Law

DAVID B. WESCOE
Manpower International

RICHARD P. WIEDERHOLD
Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation

TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

KITTY KOCOL

MARTIN F. STEIN - CHAIR

Chairman

EyeCare One

STEPHEN L. CHERNOFF

Partner

Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

JOHN GALANIS

Partner

Galanis, Pollock & Jacobs, S.C.

STEPHEN N. GRAFF

Managing Partner

Arthur Andersen, S.C.

GENEVA B. JOHNSON

Retired

Family Service America

JAMES C. McDONALD

Retired

Northwestern Mutual Life

DANIEL F. MCKEITHAN, JR.

President

Tamrock Petroleum

JEANETTE MITCHELL

Board of Directors

Milwaukee Public Schools

BETTY QUADRACCI

Publisher

Milwaukee Magazine

Testimony presented by Kitty Kocol, Executive Director of the Task Force on Family Violence of Milwaukee, in to the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee Eau Claire Wisconsin April 22, 1997

Good Morning, and thanks for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Kitty Kocol. I serve as executive director of the Task Force on Family Violence, which is a 22 year-old nonprofit agency, and the oldest of its kind in Milwaukee County.

I drove here to urge you to make an investment in the health and safety of Wisconsin families by committing \$3.83 million in the '97-'98 biennial budget for family violence services.

I believe this investment is prudent, I'd like tell you why, and I'd like to use my agency as an illustration.

Our two key program areas at the Task Force on Family Violence are victim advocacy and batterer's education. We are essential to the police who refer 60% of our clients to us. We are essential to judges, who refer abusers from their courts to our batterer's program. We are essential to court commissioners, because each and every month, we assist the 420 victims who appear before them to obtain a restraining order. Finally, probation and parole* relies on us to report noncompliance, if an abuser does not complete batterers' education as part of his sentence.

You might find this analogy strange, but I see my agency, and others like it, as the equivalent of motor oil in an expensive and complex machine that we've built to deal with this crime. We make that machine run more efficiently, and that helps the tax-paying public maximize its investment.

Family violence providers are also going to play an essential role in making welfare reform work, because we know that at least 25 percent of all domestic violence victims will lose a job because of the violence.

**In fact, I learned yesterday in a meeting with Milwaukee's Chief Judge Patrick Sheedy that half of the misdemeanors indicted done by community corrections have domestic violence in their backgrounds.*

ADVOCACY
901 North 9th Street • Milwaukee, WI 53233 • 414.278.5079

COUNSELING, EDUCATION & ADMINISTRATION
634 West Mitchell Street • Milwaukee, WI 53204 • 414.643.1911 • Fax 414.643.5001

REVENTION • DVOCACY • OUNSELING • DUCATION

As you in the legislature were working on W2, we at the Task Force began to pilot a program called "Employer Bridges." Through "Employer Bridges," we now contact a victim's employer at her request. We help that employer understand the victim's need to miss work and how violence may be impacting her ability to work. We're holding seminars for employers, to teach them about the practical and legal issues that occur when family violence enters the workplace. Since we launched "Employer Bridges" in August of last year, 344 workers have asked for our help, and in approximately 5 percent of those cases, we can show that we helped save their jobs. Our "Employer Bridges" program is innovative, but the work of virtually all providers of domestic violence services helps women keep jobs while recovering from family violence.

So far, I've described two good arguments for investing in family violence services. First is our oil in the machine effect, and second is employment retention. I'd like to offer a third. We bring private dollars to the table. Statewide, the average nonprofit domestic violence agency raises 25 cents of every dollar that it spends. And at my agency, we raise 53 cents of every dollar we spend. We truly are putting our money where our mouth is when we ask this legislature for increased funding.

My agency is one of four domestic violence agencies in the terribly underserved county of Milwaukee, and it receives no funding allocation from the state of Wisconsin. But I am not here just to talk to you about my agency, because 39 Wisconsin counties have little or no state funding for crisis services for victims. And because one out of four families will experience this problem, whether they live in Milwaukee or Bayfield, we need a commitment from the state legislature.

So I am asking, on behalf of my Board of Directors, with the support of colleagues on the Milwaukee Commission Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, from colleagues on the Wisconsin Council Against Domestic Violence, and colleagues on the Governor's Council on Domestic, for you to make a wise economic decision as well as a sound public policy decision, and support the \$3.83 million request of the domestic violence services providers in Wisconsin. It's a needed investment that is nicely leveraged by the work of staff and volunteers around the state. Thank you.

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUNDING

Wisconsin Biennial Budget Request 1997-1999

Accessible Crisis Services in Every County for Every Victim

Continuous services include advocacy, counseling (including support groups), transportation as needed, referral, follow-up, outreach and community education. The program must provide twenty-four hour crisis call coverage and have on-site services at the designated location at least forty hours per week. Primary administrative support should be, when possible, in existing domestic abuse programs.

The Governor has proposed spending available domestic abuse assessment revenue to fund eight new programs of this type. Federal funding through the Violence Against Women Act will fund three new programs. The following funding must be available to assure services are available in the remaining counties and tribes:

28 programs @ \$30,000 = \$ 840,000

Programs for Under-Served Populations

Wisconsin is home to populations of victims of domestic abuse and their children who, because of race, language barriers, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, culture and/or geographic location, have not had access to domestic abuse services. To begin to remedy this situation, the state must fund at least two local programs designed by and for under-served populations. A half-time staff person would be available to provide basic crisis services and advocacy.

2 programs @ \$39,000 = \$ 78,000

Various under-served populations reside in small clusters throughout Wisconsin. To serve this group efficiently and effectively, a comprehensive statewide approach must be taken. It is proposed that the state fund:

1 statewide program @\$100,000 = \$100,000

Children's Services

Currently, the state provides no funding for specialized services for children except \$145,000 earmarked for special demonstration projects. Services for children from violent homes must include assessments, orientation, individual counseling, age appropriate education (including dating violence), referral, follow up, support groups, safety planning and community education and outreach. The state funding necessary to achieve this goal is:

48 programs @ \$30,000 =	\$1,440,000
8 programs @ 12,000 =	96,000*

*Eight domestic abuse programs receive approximately \$18,000 each to provide children's services. An additional \$95,000 is needed to bring these programs up to the standard level of funding.

Summary

28 non-shelter crisis service programs @	\$ 30,000 =	\$ 840,000
2 programs serving under-served populations @	39,000 =	78,000
1 statewide program for under-served populations @	100,000 =	100,000
48 programs @	30,000 =	1,440,000
8 programs @	12,000 =	96,000

Total annual funding needed

\$2,554,000

Total Biennial Budget Request

\$3,831,000

Counties Currently Without Continuous Programs

Adams	Florence	Marquette	Trempeleau
Barron	Forest	Monroe	Vilas
Bayfield	Green Lake	Oconto	Washburn
Buffalo	Iowa	Pepin	Waupaca
Burnett	Jackson	Price	Waushara
Calumet	Jefferson	Sawyer	
Clark	Juneau	Shawano	
Crawford	Lafayette	St. Croix	

Milwaukee has been added as a county in need of an additional non-residential program. Currently, three state funded domestic abuse programs are located in Milwaukee to serve potentially approximately 96,000 battered women. Additionally, one program without any state funding serves battered women, children and men.

Tribes Currently Without Continuous Programs

Bad River	Sokaogan
Ho-Chunk	Stockbridge-Munsee
Lac Courte Orielles	
Potawatomi	
Red Cliff	
St. Croix	

2514 South 30th Street
LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601
April 21, 1997

To the members of the Joint Finance Committee
Wisconsin Legislature

This letter is written in support of additional resources for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program by the Wisconsin legislature. Federal funding has not kept pace with inflation and the state of Wisconsin funds have not increased since 1988.

Statewide over 10,000 volunteers provide over a million hours of service each year with the Coulee Region Retired and Volunteer Program providing the services of over a thousand volunteers. While the emphasis traditionally has been on the people who receive the help from volunteers, what is equally important is the positive impact on those who are willing to serve others in so many ways through this program.

I would strongly urge that the additional funds be provided to multi county RSVP programs-funding that at the present is the same as for single county projects. Equity in staffing would mean more volunteers opportunities in these counties with significantly more people being served.


Thank you for your consideration of this request for added support for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. There is no better value for the dollars spent than in this program which benefits not only people of all ages with the work volunteers contribute, but what happens to those who offer these services.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert J. Kuechmann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert J. Kuechmann

TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
APRIL 22, 1997

Lori Beckstrom 
417 South 11th Street
LaCrosse, WI 54601
Coulee Region RSVP
Chairman of Advisory
Council

Volunteers are a precious resource in our communities across Wisconsin. Their services give compassion and a caring spirit to our local communities that make us proud to live there.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs that presently operate in 28 counties in our state have served a significant role in the recruitment and placement of thousands of senior volunteers throughout Wisconsin and our nation.

Volunteers are serving as tutors in our schools, as role models for children in teaching basic alcohol and other addictions education to our young, serving as peer counselors for the lonely and widowed elderly, delivering homebound meals to the elderly frail and disabled people allowing them to remain independent in their own homes, joining forces with our local police and sheriffs' departments to educate their peers in the promotion and prevention of securing our neighborhoods as safe places to live and many, many other important assignments.

Continuing inflation and a growing aging population require us to come to ask for your support in improving and expanding this effective program in the State of Wisconsin.

We are requesting an additional \$837, 500 in state funding. These funds will provide for inflationary costs for the present 16 projects that serve 28 counties. Expanded service is planned for 10 more counties with the addition of two new projects and the placement of 35 new Senior Companions. Senior Companions are low-income seniors who are age 60 or above and are provided with a stipend to supplement their incomes. They provide person to person assistance to the homebound so that they can remain in their homes rather than be institutionalized.

Your support is critical to the continued effectiveness of this program!

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ---APRIL 22, 1997

MARK WEINHOLD
E9491 830TH AVENUE
COLFAX, WI 54730

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU TODAY.

MY NAME IS MARK WEINHOLD. I LIVE WITH MY FAMILY IN COLFAX, A SMALL TOWN LOCATED BETWEEN EAU CLAIRE AND MENOMONIE. I WORK AT THE LOCAL GROCERY STORE AS A MEAT CUTTER.

WHEN I TOOK A LOOK AT THE GOVERNORS PROPOSED BUDGET I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THERE WOULD BE NO DECREASE IN THE BUDGET TARGETED AT THE U.W. SYSTEM. HOWEVER I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE 5% CUT PROPOSED FOR U.W. EXTENSION. I BELIEVE IT IS UNJUST TO FOCUS THIS CUT AT CONTINUING EDUCATION AND W.P.R.

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CITIZENS THROUGH OUT OUR ENTIRE LIVES. I SEE THIS CUT AS BEING DIRECTED AT THOSE OF US WORKING CLASS TAX PAYERS WHO HAVE NEITHER THE TIME OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PARTICIPATE IN A FORMAL HIGHER EDUCATIONS SETTING.

I AM ESPECIALLY UPSET OVER CONTINUED CUTS IN FUNDING FOR WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO.

I HAVE BEEN A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS. BEING WHAT SOME WOULD TERM AS AN UNCONVENTIONAL CANDIDATE WHO NEEDED TO WORK FULL TIME THROUGH OUT MY CAMPAIGNS, W.P.R. PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MY EFFORTS.

FIRST W.P.R. IS THE ONLY BROADCAST MEDIA - AND I WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THE ONLY NEWS AND INFORMATION MEDIA IN THE STATE WHICH PUTS ALL CANDIDATES ON AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD. AFTER EACH APPEARANCE ON W.P.R. I WAS CONTACTED BY LISTENERS ALL OVER THE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WHO I COULD NOT HAVE REACHED ANY OTHER WAY WITH THE RESOURCES I HAD AVAILABLE TO ME.

BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION WPR IS TO ME. I AM FORTUNATE TO WORK AT A JOB WHERE I AM ABLE TO LISTEN TO WPR ALL DAY SIX DAYS A WEEK. WPR WAS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE I HAD TO EDUCATE MYSELF ON THE ISSUES. NEWSPAPERS MAGAZINES OR TELEVISIONS CAN NOT COME CLOSE TO PROVIDING AS MANY HOURS AND DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW ON AS MANY SUBJECTS AS WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO DOES.

THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES A SOCIETY HAS. WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO IS SUCH A VALUABLE EDUCATING TOOL, I BELIEVE THAT JUST LIKE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, EVEN IF ALL TAX PAYERS DO NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS RESOURCE, WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP PAY FOR IT. NOW USER FEES ARE ALSO IMPORTANT AND I AM NOT ONLY A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO ASSOCIATION, BUT I VOLUNTEER

TO HELP OUT AT THE RADIO AUCTION AND DURING THE PLEDGE PERIODS WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO HAS. AS A RESULT I UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE LISTENER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE UP, THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH MONEY WHICH CAN BE GAINED IN THIS MANNER.

TO KEEP THE QUALITY WHICH MAKES W.P.R. THE ENVY OF EVERY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION, OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING MUST BE FOUND AND THAT MEANS AN EVER INCREASING RELIANCE ON CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FORM OF UNDERWRITING. * THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, LISTENER AND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS IMPORTANT. WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO PRESENTS A FAIR AND BALANCED PROGRAM. I KNOW THAT W.P.R. WOULD RESIST ALL ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THAT BALANCE. HOWEVER WITH INCREASING CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS. HOW LONG BEFORE A PRODUCER EITHER SUBCONSCIOUSLY OR KEEPS IN THE BACK OF THEIR MIND - IS THE IMPORTANCE OF OFFERING THIS SHOW OUT WEIGH THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFENDING A CONTRIBUTOR?

I WOULD ASK THIS COMMITTEE TO THINK LONG AND HARD AND CONSIDER ALL THE RAMIFICATIONS BEFORE YOU ALLOW ANY MORE CUTS IN FUNDING FOR U.W. EXTENSION.

I ONCE AGAIN THANK THIS COMMITTEE AND ASK THAT I BE ALLOWED TO SUBMIT THIS TESTIMONY IN WRITING, AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

I should be noted that WPR now receives a higher % of funding from Corp. than from U.W. Extension

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 1997-99 BUDGET
APRIL 22, 1997 EAU CLAIRE, WI

Members of the Joint Finance Committee, legislators from the Chippewa Valley, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding the 1997-99 budget. My name is Paul Cook. I am the coordinator of St. Joseph's Hospital Home Health Services in Chippewa Falls, which provides services to over 570 clients in the Chippewa Valley on an average day. I am here today to advocate for the needs of those clients, whose health status makes it difficult for them to leave home and advocate for themselves.

I have been involved in this last year with the effort by the Department of health and Family Services to redesign the long term care program in this state. You all know that this is a matter that is becoming increasingly more urgent as our population continues to age and put demands on our existing system. One of the fundamental points of discussion throughout this entire year has been the need to shift more of the long term care system away from the institutional bias, creating more balance in funding and utilization with home and community services. Secretary Leean has done an admirable job in pushing this project forward. However, I am disappointed both as a participant in the process and as a long term care provider in this budget. The nursing home industry is budgeted for an increase of \$132 million dollars over the biennium. In contrast, COP is budgeted for less slots than are needed to address waiting lists, and the Home Health industry is budgeted for a 1% increase, which translates into miniscule increases for nursing, home health aide, and personal care services. These services contribute the health management component to the social supports that are provided through COP funding in order to create the infrastructure of long term care in the home and community.

If we are truly on the verge of building a new long term care system in the state that helps to sustain people in their homes first, then we need to invest in those components that provide care in the home. The Home Health industry has not received a rate increase in the last 7 years. In fact, in fiscal year 1995 due to coverage and policy changes, as well as efficiencies in the industry, Home Health was \$39.1 million under budget. None of these dollars went back to homecare, however. Instead, they were returned to the general fund.

It is difficult to compete in today's labor market for workers, especially with our rate of unemployment being as low as it is. It is even more difficult to compete when our reimbursement rate (which has not changed for 7 years) does not allow us as employers to keep pace with our workers cost of living. This is especially true with personal care workers, who are also being attracted to fast food chains, grocery stores, and other businesses using non skilled workers (even though personal care workers are required to have 40 hours of training). This might be well and good for the marketplace, but when it comes to providing quality care for a rapidly growing population in need of services, we had better have a capable workforce to meet this need. It would be a major crisis to have a well designed long term care system, and not enough workers to make it happen. This is a very real issue right now, and it is early in the game. Our current emphasis on education and property tax reform is certainly laudable, but we need to recognize the importance of preparing for the massive ^{impact} ~~ness~~ of this population shift. Now is the time to begin making the investment in long term care in the home. It needs to start with a stronger dollar commitment to the Home Health industry.

The industry has presented a proposal to increase the budgets dollars for Home Health to \$1.6 million for skilled nursing, \$1.9 million for home health aide services, and \$20 million for personal care services. Compared to \$132 million for nursing homes, this seems reasonable. This increase will allow agencies to attract workers through better salaries and benefits. It will give agencies an opportunity to build a workforce that is capable and prepared to meet the growing long term care needs of this state.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share my views.



Chippewa County Department of Public Health

711 N. Bridge Street • Room 222 • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 • (715) 726-7900
1-800-400-3678 (Rural) • FAX (715) 726-7910

April 22, 1997

To the Joint Finance Committee:

Re: 1997-99 Wisconsin Biennial Budget

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide input on the proposed biennial budget. I believe it is a very important step in your decision making process to get public input. I wish to comment on the following budgetary items:

1. Proposed elimination of primary care grants to local health departments: All local health departments are required to perform community health needs assessments. The primary care allocation is the only remaining discretionary funds which were awarded to local health departments to provide a primary care service needed in the local community. In Chippewa County with our last award of \$9428 we were able to assist 54 uninsured children and subsidize \$4623 of diagnostic and preventive care from a physician, dentist or eye doctor. This averages out to \$175 per child, a very low cost with great health benefits. While our local funding and the funding of \$250,000 statewide is not enough to meet the need, elimination of any option whatsoever to assist children without insurance is very untimely.

2. Deletion of \$2.66 million in GPR funding for the immunization program: Wisconsin health care providers including health departments have been successful in immunizing children against measles, mumps and rubella.

However, the need to monitor immunization status and deliver immunizations is far from over. Over the last year the varicella or chickenpox vaccine was added. An acellular form of pertussis was newly licensed for more age groups. New recommendations added injectable polio vaccine to the vaccines given. A new recommendation was adopted to provide tetanus boosters to 11 and 12 year olds. Finally, an initiative to immunize all seventh graders against hepatitis B is at the public hearing stage as HSS 144. This means giving 3 shots over a period of 6 months to all seventh graders. The current immunization schedule is confusing to parents and it takes a lot of staff time to explain, to recall children, to promote immunizations. Additionally, the new improved vaccines which cause fewer side effects in some cases, also bear a higher purchase price.

The funds that the Chippewa County Department of Public Health has used over the past two years have improved the administration and documentation of immunizations by 20%. While Wisconsin has made progress, our percentage of two year olds immunized on time is still less than Mississippi. There is room for improvement. This is not the time to back off on funding the immunization program.

3. Farmer's Market WIC Program: This funding makes good sense for many reasons. Everyone should eat five fruits and vegetables a day. Providing fresh fruits and vegetables to some of Wisconsin's neediest women and children through the farmer's market is a good investment in their health. Programs which allow for purchase of produce and support our farmers is important for their economic health. Actually, this funding does not go far enough. It only funds the status quo which is support for farmer's markets in Milwaukee, Dane and Eau Claire County. Farmers in our rural counties and in my own Chippewa County can not currently participate. It is to Wisconsin's benefit to support not only women and children statewide, but farmers. The Farmer's Market WIC Program should not only be funded, but

funds should be increased in order to expand this program statewide.

4. Return of State GPR funding for WIC: The state removed the \$2 million funding in the last biennium. The result is that there is no more GPR funds to support WIC administration. The outcome will likely be more of the money taken from local projects to administer their programs while continuing the expectation of maintaining the same level of services. It can not be done. The services can not continue with an up-to 7% decrease in local funding. This is another reason that additional funding for state WIC administration through the Farmer's Market initiative or other sources makes sense.

5. Women's Health Initiative: This initiative will provide grants for health screening services for low income and uninsured women. It will strengthen domestic abuse enforcement and provide funds for women's health education. The governor is to be commended for proposing this initiative and it deserves your support.

6. Children's Health Insurance Study: All children deserve health care services. Therefore, a study of the best way to provide insurance to children makes sense. If Wisconsin ever receives a waiver for Medicaid which permits children to be dropped after five years, the need for children's health insurance will burgeon. This is an opportunity to be proactive and plan for a service which supports the health of children. It would also be very untimely for WisconCare to lapse over \$600,000 of funds back to the general fund. These funds should remain in the insurance program and be considered as a means to expand the initiative beyond 17 counties to all children.

7. Increase the cigarette excise fee: Realizing that funding is limited in state government, some of the programs listed above may need new revenue sources. An increase in the cigarette excise fee and earmarking some of the new revenue to support health initiatives makes economic sense. This

would include a statewide campaign to prevent teens from starting smoking. According to a 1993 St. Norbert College survey, 73% of Wisconsin citizens support a \$1.00 per pack cigarette fee increase and this includes nearly one-third of smokers. With so much support from the majority of Wisconsin citizens, certainly you can have the political will to take this action. It has been documented in other states that an increase in tobacco tax keeps cigarettes out of the hands of more children because the price becomes too high. Smoking & Health in the Americas: a 1992 Report of the Surgeon General supports that increasing tobacco taxes is widely recognized as the single most effective way to reduce tobacco consumption. If more individuals quit because the price is too high, than Wisconsin also wins with healthier citizens with fewer smoking-induced cancers and heart diseases. Cigarette smoking is a legal substance which kills when used as intended.

A proposed \$.56 per pack cigarette fee (or \$.28 each year of this legislative session) would generate \$192 million per year (\$104 million in the first year) according to the legislative fiscal bureau. With the new monies generated by this fee Wisconsin could fund primary care grants, the immunization program, WIC farmer's market statewide and support of WIC state administration, the Women's Health initiative, a children's insurance study and a "don't smoke or use smokeless tobacco" campaign aimed at our youth. Adults don't start smoking, children do. This becomes a win-win situation both in terms of improved health and increased funding.

I appreciate your consideration and will look for your funding support of these public health services in Wisconsin. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean C. Durch".

Jean C. Durch, RN

Public Health Director

To Whom It May Concern

I live in a rural area of Clark County and last year I needed some help. I did not know who to turn to because I needed to be protected from my husband beating me.

I have 2 children, 7 & 4 yrs old. There is no one in my county to help me. My family is out of state and I have to sneak phone calls to them.

I cannot work because my husband feels I should be home. Clark County does not have a domestic abuse program but I heard I could call Meaford, in Taylor County & they would help. All they could do is get me into shelter, help me with a safety plan but I had no transportation to get there.

Because I had no friends but those of my husband I could not call anyone.

Please support a program in our county to provide service for families like mine. It is not fair that our county cannot have services for battered women - we are no different than those in your county or Taylor or Eau Claire counties.

Thank you
Clark County Resident

Dear Sir,

I live in Clark County and there are no services here for me + my children. I must drive 50 miles to the County seat to see if they can help me. I can only have the car to go to the store and can get someone to help me if I go to another county.

My children must leave their friends to be safe with me in a strange county. Unless I move I cannot get any services.

Could you support our need for battered women's services in Clark County and expand services in other counties like Stepping Stones in Taylor County - then instead of leaving there is someone here that could help me through all this. They know what I need in Clark City.

If it wasn't for Stepping Stones I would not be safe but they cannot offer me much else except a plan to follow to be safe. My friend Delores Dels was killed 2 yrs ago - there was no one in Clark City to help her.

Please make sure there is a program here in Clark County.

Thank you

B.J.

Clark County

STEPPING STONES

P.O. Box 224 • Medford, Wisconsin 54451
(715) 748-3795 • Crisis Line (715) 748-5140

TO: The Joint Finance Committee

April 22, 1997

I represent Stepping Stones Shelter, Inc. the domestic Abuse program from Medford, WI, in Taylor County. We are a rural area program consisting of 19,000 plus individuals on 83% farmland.

While our program represents the only service provider for victims of domestic violence in the county, we are limited in what services we provide. This limitation is due to lack of funding resources. I am here to testify our need and request your support for our continued services, additional services and implementation of new programs in counties which lack total services.

Limited funding does not give our counties the opportunity to:

- 1) Provide Child Advocacy Services, nor
- 2) Provide a Domestic Abuse program in every county.

1- In the last year, we provided shelter for 18 children and service to other families, not needing shelter, where approximately 53 children were involved in or witness to domestic abuse in their homes. Because of limited access to funding resources, we could not provide direct services to children. We do not have the staff nor resources to meet those needs to give our children security and self esteem. The challenge and competition in obtaining funding resources leaves us in bidding against local services providers where children's funding is their sole source.

In order to continue our work to eradicate domestic violence in Taylor County- we need to address, support and have quality services available to our children, our future. Services for children from violent homes must include assessment, orientation, individual counseling, age appropriate education-to include dating violence, referral, follow up, support groups, safety planning, community education and outreach.

State funding is necessary to achieve this. We ask that you support our request to increase funding for 48 programs and upgrade the 8 special demonstration projects giving all children from violent homes the opportunity to improve their lives.

2-While it is estimated that a small percentage (10%) of domestic altercations are reported, there are 29 counties without continuous programs. Clark County, to the south of Taylor, does not have an outreach staff, any direct services available for residents and only contact with out county programs for shelter.



"No One Deserves To Be Beaten"

P.2

Shelter availability is positive for safety of the family-but lack of transportation assistance is a deterrent in the rural areas. In 1996 we assisted 15 families from Clark County in domestic altercations; some in sheltering and others in referral. Limited funding does not give our program the opportunity for transportation in coming into safe housing nor to assist these families in court proceedings, lawyers, or county resources to move with their lives. Resources needed to meet their needs are in Neilsville, an hour drive from Medford.

I am asking for your understanding and support of the needs all our state programs have in providing quality services for adults and children in domestic abusive homes.

Sincerely,


Irene E. Hayen
Director

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Domestic abuse shelters provide food, some clothing, transportation to and from school for children, individual and support group counseling and systems advocacy. The average length of stay per family in a domestic abuse shelter is 14.1 days.

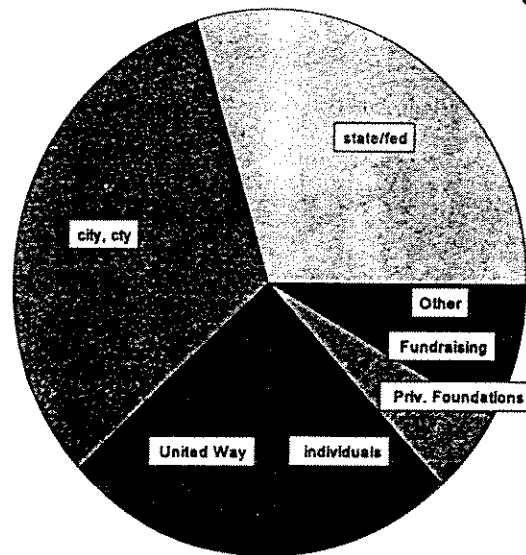
Both non residential and shelter programs provide crisis phone coverage twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, face to face counseling, legal advocacy and court accompaniment for thousands of victims who choose not to reside in shelter. Many families utilize services more than once a year.

When funding allows, programs provide economic advocacy and long term support and guidance to women and their children who attempt to leave the violent relationship.

Community education and public awareness campaigns function in all programs.

Local Domestic Abuse Funding

State w/fed	30%
City/Cty	32%
Individuals	11%
Private Found.	5%
Fundraising	5%
United Way	4%
Other	3%

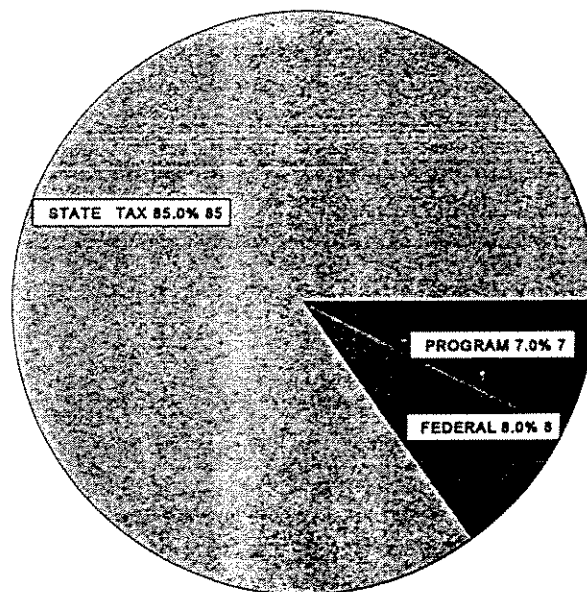


In 1995, 3,422 volunteers contributed 245,268 hours of service to victims of domestic violence and their children.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE FUNDING:

In 1995, the state of Wisconsin distributed **\$4,166,000** for services to victims of domestic violence and their children. That amounts to **\$8.90 per victim** if all victims requested services.

Approximately 85% came from the state general purpose revenue. Eight percent (8%) came from the federal Family Violence Prevention and Service Act and the remainder from perpetrator assessments made upon criminal conviction.



FACTS ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

- The risk of child abuse is significantly higher when partner assault is also reported (Hotaling, Straus and Lincoln, 1989).
- The range of problems among children who witness parental violence includes psychosomatic disorders, such as stuttering, anxiety, fear, sleep disruption and school problems (Hilberman and Munson 1977-78).
- Children in homes where domestic violence occurs are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate of 1500% higher than the national average in the general population. (A Guide for Health Care Professionals, NJ:March, 1990)
- Young women between the ages of fourteen and seventeen represent an estimated 38% of those victimized by date rape. (Warshaw, 1988)
- Abused children are arrested by the police four times more often than non-abused children. (Gelles and Straus, 1988).
- Sixty three percent of youthful offenders who commit murder do so to kill the abusers of their mothers. (Senate Committee on the Judiciary Reports, 1990)

IN WISCONSIN:

- Children who accompany their mothers represent 57% of domestic abuse service recipients.
- Less than 3% of domestic abuse funding is earmarked for children's services.
- Seventy five percent of all sexual assault victims were juveniles. More than 68% of all victims were fifteen years old or younger. (1995 Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Report, 1995)
- Children's services housed in domestic abuse programs have a role to play in decreasing the inter-generational transmission of domestic violence.

FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE IN WISCONSIN

DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently, thirty (30) counties and eight (8) tribes have no continuous domestic abuse crisis services. In addition, Milwaukee is a severely under-funded county. Three state funded and one non state funded domestic abuse service providers render assistance to the entire Milwaukee community.
- Potentially, more than 166,000 battered women have no access to continuous services available in their communities.
- The state has not provided an increase in funding from general purpose revenue for domestic abuse services in four years.
- Funding domestic abuse services is an investment with a return. For every dollar provided by the state, communities contribute two dollars in funding for services.
- Domestic abuse programs utilize volunteers to remain cost effective. In 1995, more than 3,400 volunteers contributed more than 245,000 hours of service to victims and their children. At \$6 per hour, they donated \$1,470,000 of in-kind services.

WHY ARE ADEQUATE BASIC SERVICES NECESSARY IN EVERY COUNTY?

- The risk of assault is greatest when a woman leaves or threatens to leave an abusive relationship, (Browne, 1987).
- In 1995, one out of every five homicides was domestic related.
- The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse related crime has increased steadily since 1990. In 1995 alone, almost 33,000 incidents were reported to law enforcement.
- In 1995, domestic abuse programs turned away 23% of victims requesting shelter because of lack of space. This number could be reduced if basic services were available in every county.
- Crisis calls to domestic abuse service providers have increased 35% in 1995 over 1994.
- Requests for transportation increased 24% in 1995.

***THE CURRENT DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM
CANNOT ACCOMMODATE THIS KIND OF INCREASE IN NEED.***

OVER

Kathie Knoble-Iverson
Executive Director

Shelby Mall
4328 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601

(608)787-1111 - Voice
(608)787-1148 - TTY
(608)787-1114 - Fax

4/3/97

FUND THE COMMUNITY PROMISE!

Aging/Disability Coalition
Proposal for the 1997 - 1999 State Budget



Governor Thompson's proposed state budget continues the institutional bias and does little to Keep the Community Promise (other than his proposed repeal of the Community Caps). He proposes a \$132 million increase for nursing homes, but only \$5 million for COP, and he shortchanges the other community programs listed below.

The \$132 million nursing home increase is bigger than the entire annual \$119 million budget for COP and COP Waiver. This is in spite of the fact that the number of people in nursing homes funded by Medicaid is expected to decrease in the next biennium. An increase of \$132 million in COP would allow over 13,000 more people to be served by COP/COP Waiver! There are 8,900 people on COP waiting lists statewide.

WE HAVE TO LET THE LEGISLATURE KNOW:

**SHOW SOME FAIRNESS!
FUND THE COMMUNITY PROMISE!
BALANCE THE LONG-TERM SUPPORT BUDGET!**

- *1) **Community Caps** - Governor's proposal: Repeal the caps
Recommendation: Support the Governor's proposal
- *2) **Community Options Program** - Governor's proposal: 400 slots a year.
Fairness Amendment: Eliminate the 8900 person statewide COP waiting list and restore the transfer of nursing home funds to COP (Act 469). (Proposed funding sources for this increase are shown at the end of this paper.)
- *3) **Community Aids** - Governor's proposal: \$7.3 million cut to the basic county allocation, including a reduction in the state's commitment of GPR funding to Community Aids by \$31.8 million/year.
Fairness Amendment: Restore the overall basic county allocation to 1995 levels; restore the GPR portion of Community Aids to 1995 levels; add additional line item for wage initiative with allocation of \$1 million in year 1 and \$2 million in year 2.
- *4) **Medical Assistance (Title 19) Co-payments** - Governor's proposal: Increase all co-pays to federal allowable maximums.
Fairness Amendment: No new co-payments or co-pay increases.
- *5) **Specialized Transportation** - Governor's proposal: \$600,000 increase for elderly and disabled transit (while \$12 million will be spent for the Brewers to move a highway).
Fairness Amendment: \$2 - 3 million increase, depending on the level of the gas tax increase (we propose \$1 million increase in specialized transportation funding for each penny of gas tax increase).

- * 6) **Independent Living Centers** - Governor's proposal: No increase.
Fairness Amendment: Increase each Center's allocation from its current \$224,000/year to \$250,000/year.
- 7) **Non-Institutional Medical Assistance Providers** (such as Home Health Agencies) - Governor's proposal: 1% increase.
 * **Fairness Amendment:** 3% increase
- * 8) **Nursing Home Bed Banking** - The budget proposes to allow nursing homes to "bank" (temporarily delicense) beds in order to obtain a higher reimbursement under MA.
Fairness Amendment: Remove the Bed Banking provision, and leave in place the current incentive for nursing homes to close empty beds and allow counties to convert those beds to CIP II slots.
- * 9) **SSI and AFDC** - Governor's proposal a): Eliminate the AFDC payments to 5400 families (which includes 7500 children) headed by a parent with a disability on SSI, and replace them with a \$77 per child monthly payment to the parent. This represents a 65% loss of income to an average family.- Governor's proposal b): Eliminate the state SSI supplement for legal immigrants who have recently lost federal SSI eligibility.
Fairness Amendment to a): Provide a state supplement equal to the amount families received from AFDC or Kinship Care level of \$215 per child per month.
Fairness Amendment to b): Create a new cash benefit to replace the lost SSI benefits for legal immigrants; allocate funds to assist SSI potentially eligible individuals in the naturalization process.
- 10) **Elder Rights Package** - The budget includes no increase in funding for the Benefit Specialist program, for elder abuse services or the Ombudsman program.
Fairness Amendment: Provide funds to expand all three of these programs, including funds for the Volunteer Ombudsman program.
- * 11) **Family Support Program** - Governor's proposal: zero increase
Fairness Amendment: Increase of \$4 million each year to eliminate the 1850 person waiting list; create new line item to provide Family Support Program respite care to families of individuals with disabilities over age 22 living at home (separate allocation : \$1 million each year).
- 12) **Birth to Three Program** - Governor's proposal: zero increase
Fairness Amendment: Fully fund the program; provide additional \$250,000 in FY98 and \$750,000 in FY99 for emergency fund to distribute to counties as needed to maintain services.
- 13) **CIP 1B** - Governor's proposal: no rate increase; 75 additional placements each year.
Fairness Amendment: Increase rates for new slots from \$48.33 to \$75; create 300 additional slots in FY98 and 200 additional slots in FY99.
- 14) **Education of Children with Special Needs** - Governor's proposal: freeze Categorical Aids for Handicapped Education which will result in a drop in reimbursement of costs incurred by school districts to below 39%.
Fairness Amendment: Increase Categorical Aids so that reimbursements to school districts for special education does not drop below 39%.

- 15) **Right to Refuse Treatment** - Governor's proposal: restrict the rights of competent adults who refuse certain treatment while committed to psychiatric facilities, and authorize the creation of non-treatment facilities.
Fair Amendment: Take this policy issue out of the state budget.
- 16) **Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Program (HIRSP)** - Governor's proposal: transfer HIRSP from the Insurance Commissioner's office to the Medical Assistance program at DHFS.
Fairness Amendment: Take this policy issue out of the state budget.
- 17) **Foster Grandparent Program** - Governor's proposal: transfer the program from the Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources to the Division of Children and Family Services.
Fairness Amendment: Maintain the program in the Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resource with other aging volunteer programs.

Proposed Ways to Fund the Community Promise

As the state moves to redesign long-term care, it is essential that home and community care be adequately funded because it is the overwhelming preference of older persons and people with disabilities and it will help continue the trend of decreased nursing home utilization. Also, until redesign is implemented, everything possible should be done to combat the institutional bias.

Important A Proposal to "Balance" the Long-Term Care Budget

- Increase the cigarette tax by another nickel a pack to "level the playing field" by eliminating waiting lists for home and community care (COP). This would provide increased revenues of approximately \$20 million a year but would leverage an additional \$21 million a year by matching federal funds under the COP-Waiver program (using 70% of the \$20 million to match federal dollars). This amount of funding would dramatically reduce waiting lists for home and community care, and would further reduce nursing home utilization paid for by Medical Assistance.
- Allocate a portion of Wisconsin's expected \$25 million 1997 revenue from the Liggett court settlement to the state's Medicaid budget, freeing up GPR \$ for community programs.
- Reinstate Act 469, with certain amendments, to allow the transfer of funds to COP when there is reduction in Medicaid - paid nursing home days from one year to the next. Target all or most of the savings for nursing home relocations to assure future savings.
- Strengthen the role of DHFS and counties in determining whether or not to allow the transfer of nursing home beds from one facility or county to another. The decision would have to assure that the transfer was not inconsistent with county plans to develop home and community care.
- Amend the Governor's budget proposal that allows nursing homes to "bank" beds if their occupancy rate is below 91% to provide Community Integration Programs (CIP) funds to counties to provide home and community care. Also, use CIP funds for relocation. This will provide additional resources to counties for home and community care, and assure the gradual permanent closing of nursing home beds. Without this

will receive higher Medicaid reimbursement (i.e., cost more money) and can use the beds again when their occupancy rates go up. This amendment does not increase Medicaid costs.

Other Funding Sources

- Medical Assistance Savings - According to the budget the overall Medicaid caseload is projected to decline in the 1997-1999 biennium. Based on the average cost per Medicaid recipient in 1995/96 of \$5,031, the caseload reductions provide a savings of \$97 million in 1996/97, \$69 million in 1997/98 and \$78 million in 1998/99. In addition, if the proposed balanced long-term care budget is approved, there should be even greater savings through further decreases in nursing home utilization.
- Provide a smaller rate increase for nursing homes in order to give more equity in rate increases for non-institutional MA providers.
- Eliminate the \$25 senior citizen income tax credit for older persons with adjusted incomes of over \$40,000 a year to raise \$1.7 million to fund the Benefit Specialist program (county, tribal and legal backup), expand elder abuse services and provide two additional long-term care Ombudsman positions and funding for the Volunteer Ombudsman program.
- Increase the gas tax by 2-3 cents per gallon to provide increased funding for specialized transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities as well as for other highway and transportation programs.

For more information you can contact:

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups - (608) 224-0660

Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy - (608) 267-0214; (800) 928-8778 for consumers & family members

Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers - (608) 251-9151 (v/TTY); (800) 690-6665

Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities - (608) 266-7826

1997-1999 State Budget WCILC Legislative Agenda

Increase Independent Living Centers Base Funding

Current base funding: for Wisconsin ILC's is \$224,064. In 93-95 the State Legislature recognized the need for and approved a base funding level of \$250,000 per center. However, the governor vetoed out the number of centers and directed the Department of Health and Social Services to use the funds to create a new center, resulting in the current base funding of \$224,064 per center.

As with all agencies, operating costs are increasing. For one center the cost of health insurance alone rose 33% in the last year. This increase in operating costs demands more of the staff for fewer dollars as well as increasing strain on resources for consumers.

Recommended Funding: \$250,000. base level funding per center. \$181,600 in FY 98 and \$181,600 in FY 99. this figure represents a modest increase in operating funds as recommended by the Department of Health and Family Services but not included in the Governor's recommendation.

Background: Independent Living Centers are non-profit community based agencies governed and staffed by people with disabilities that provide essential services to people with disabilities in every county of Wisconsin without regard to age, race Ethnicity or ability to pay. Under both state and federal law, ILC's are responsible for four core services; Independent Living Skills Training, Information and Referral, Advocacy & Peer Support. ILC's trained and experienced staff as well as excellent relationships within their services related to technical assistance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), assistive technology, personal care services, home modifications. Independent Living Centers are a recognized source for information on disability for local municipalities, counties, other area human services agencies, as well as individuals and family members seeking assistance.

Independent Living Centers are making an important contribution both to the lives of individuals with disabilities and to their communities at large. We urge you to consider the great value that people in Wisconsin are getting from ILC's. And the challenge that we all face continuing to serve more individuals with shrinking dollars. While we appreciate that these are tight fiscal times for the state, we believe that for the modest amount that Wisconsin contributes to the funding of ILCs, the taxpayers receive a substantial return for that investment.



Wisconsin Overlay Network for Distance Education Resources

Chippewa Valley Technical College • Fox Valley Technical College • Northcentral Technical College
Western Wisconsin Technical College
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire • University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse • University of Wisconsin - River Falls
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point • University of Wisconsin - Stout

WONDER - Robert Hannu - Director

Northcentral Technical College • 1000 W. Campus Drive • Wausau, WI 54401

Phone: 715/675-3331, x4051 / Fax: 715/675-5868 / Email: Hannu?ntc@mail.northcentral.tec.wi.us

Response to the Joint Finance Committee on the 1997-99 Biennial Budget

April 22, 1997

Chippewa Valley Technical College
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. Today, I would like to make several comments regarding the proposed Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin initiative, or TEACH Wisconsin.

My name is Robert Hannu, and I'm the director of the Wisconsin Overlay Network for Distance Education Resources. This network, known as WONDER, is a two-way interactive television network that connects the Chippewa Valley, Northcentral, Fox Valley and Western Wisconsin Technical College districts as well as the University of Wisconsin campuses at Eau Claire, La Crosse, River Falls, Stevens Point and Stout. Our network also interconnects with an additional 29 Pre-K-12 districts, three Technical College Districts, one additional UW campus and the LCO College through the NWECS, WestWING, and SCING ITV systems. We also have an interconnection to the Marshfield Clinic locations in Marshfield and Chippewa Falls, as well as with the state's compressed videoconferencing network.

We have viewed with great interest the proposed components of the TEACH Wisconsin initiative. On behalf of the WONDER Operations Board, I would like to state that we fully support any initiative that will provide leadership, funding, and integration to the distance education efforts underway in the state. With this in mind, we feel that there are three areas where we would like to offer comment.

The Educational Telecommunications Access Program of TEACH Wisconsin has specified a top rate of \$250 per month for new interactive video links into school districts. We hope that a way can be found to extend this reduced rate to the pioneering institutions who were trail blazers in the use of this distance learning technology. These schools have made the tough choices and have done the "heavy lifting" to show that these systems can be successful and who have for the past several years paid a monthly rate that is, in some cases, ten times this newly proposed rate. We also ask that there be an equity achieved for these schools' higher education partners, both in existing and new networks, to take advantage of this new, reduced rate proposal.

As we have moved forward with inter-network coordination and the development of new partnerships, we have enjoyed a very successful working relationship with the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board. We are eager to work with the TEACH Wisconsin Board

and its staff to help achieve the goals of the initiative, but we feel that ECB, with its staff of distance learning specialists, could be a natural and efficient core agency for this project. If TEACH Wisconsin is to successfully support the integration of Information Technology into the PreK-12 schools, there needs to be an understanding that data communications, the Internet, and the two-way video networks are different but are not mutually exclusive. Each of these delivery systems needs to be considered in finding the "appropriate technology" to bring maximum benefit to the student. The expertise that could be brought to bear by the ECB can provide the planning, collaboration, and leadership necessary to produce a balanced and useful statewide system.

The final issue that I would like to address today concerns the elimination of the Educational Technology Board and the Pioneering Partners Education Technology Grant and Loan Program. Over 18 months ago, the WONDER, NWECS, SCING, and WestWING networks formed a partnership called Project: WIDEN. The goal of this partnership was to seek grant funding through the Educational Technology Board and the Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation to upgrade the common network hardware of each of the 45 members of these four networks. This project was to take advantage of a limited term trade-in period offered by the network equipment manufacturer. Because of the transition from the Educational Technology Board to TEACH Wisconsin, we find that this critical project has fallen through the cracks between the two programs. Because of the discontinuation of funding available through ETB, which might have allowed us to move forward by the May 31 deadline established by the vendor, the project will not only lose the value of the discount program, but also will lose over \$115,000 in cash contributions offered by the service providers. We estimate that by missing this deadline, because of the gap in funding between ETB and TEACH Wisconsin, the cost of this project will increase by over \$500,000, if we can assume the project will continue at all. As the discussions of TEACH Wisconsin continue over the next few weeks, we ask that this project be considered, as well as the many other grant requests that were made during the current round of ETB funding requests.

In conclusion, I urge the Joint Finance Committee, as they consider the TEACH Wisconsin funding:

- to incorporate the necessary support staff to implement the project;
- to find a way to provide equity in the pricing of Telecommunications Access that recognizes the contribution of higher education and of the institutions that have pioneered distance education in the state;
- And to consider the impact of the transition period into TEACH Wisconsin on the growth and development of distance learning consortiums.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

4/22/97

Dear Joint Finance Committee,

We are here today to discuss several issues concerning the state budget that affect us as students in the University of Wisconsin System.

The first issue concerns funding for Distance Education. We are very grateful that the Governor proposed funding for the technology and the training of the teachers that will be using the Distance Education equipment. There was no funding, however, for technicians to repair the equipment. If the equipment would break down, students may miss several days to more than a week of instruction until a technician could make the repairs. We ask that additional funding be included to cover the cost of providing technicians to keep the Distance Education equipment functioning.

Academic advising is another important area that needs to be adequately funded. The Board of Regents concluded in their 21st Century Study that additional academic advising was needed in order to graduate students in four years. The UW System requested \$4 million for the program. However, there was no funding for advisement in the Governor's proposed budget. We ask that \$4 million be included in the budget to fund academic advising. Funding academic advising should be considered an investment. It will help graduate students quicker. This will save the tax payers money. It also makes more room for other students to obtain an education.

Wisconsin state grants need to be increased, especially WHEG. The only program that received an increase in the Governor's proposed budget was WHEG. This program received a modest 2% increase the first year and 3% the second. The other programs were level funded, which actually results in a cut when inflation is considered. We ask that the financial aid programs be increased at the same rate as tuition.

We understand that there are only so many GPR dollars. In the event that the UW System would not be able to receive all the funds that we asked for, we would like to ask that the 105% flexibility be included in the budget.

We understand that there is opposition to this flexibility by people who say that the responsibility of funding the UW System would be shifted from the state to the students. We understand that the ideal situation would be to increase the state's contribution, but we do not see this happening any time soon. In the mean time, we do not want to see a decrease in the quality of our instruction.

Over the past decades, state support of the UW System has declined. Along with decreased funding, the UW System has experienced decreased quality. For example, the University of Wisconsin - Stout believes strongly in learning through involvement. Our classroom environment involves small group activities, team projects, one-on-one monitoring, and community-based service projects. However, recent budget cuts have

resulted in faculty teaching larger classes. As a result of having larger classes, there is less time spent with individual students, fewer writing assignments, and fewer team projects. Differential Tuition could provide funds for additional teaching assistants and graduate assistants.

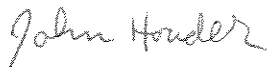
To compensate for insufficient GPR dollars and improve the quality of education on our campus, UW-Stout has considered the implementation of differential tuition. We looked into charging an additional 5% onto the tuition rate. Based on last years' tuition, it would have cost undergraduate students \$53 per semester. We would have been able to raise three-quarters of a million dollars in one year. This revenue would stay exclusively on our campus. We need the 105% flexibility to be included in the budget so that differential tuition would be allowed.

Students would be able to see immediate results. The library and laboratories would be able to stay open longer. There would also be additional jobs for students to work in the library and laboratories. Currently, any student that takes a co-op has to pay \$225. If we had differential tuition, this fee would be eliminated.

Revenue flexibility could also be used to help give the faculty in the UW System their much deserved raise. Even though my tuition would increase, I support giving the faculty a raise. I want quality faculty giving me instruction. If the faculty do not receive a salary increase, I fear that some may leave the UW System and go to higher paying institutions. For example, we lost several professors last year to other institutions. One Industrial Engineer professor left Stout for a job in the Minnesota State Technical School System for a \$15,000 increase.

The 105% flexibility needs to be included in the budget, or we can not have differential tuition, academic or career advisement, and faculty compensation. I urge you to include the 105% flexibility in the final budget.

We would like to thank you for your time and ask that education remains a priority in Wisconsin.



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Editorial

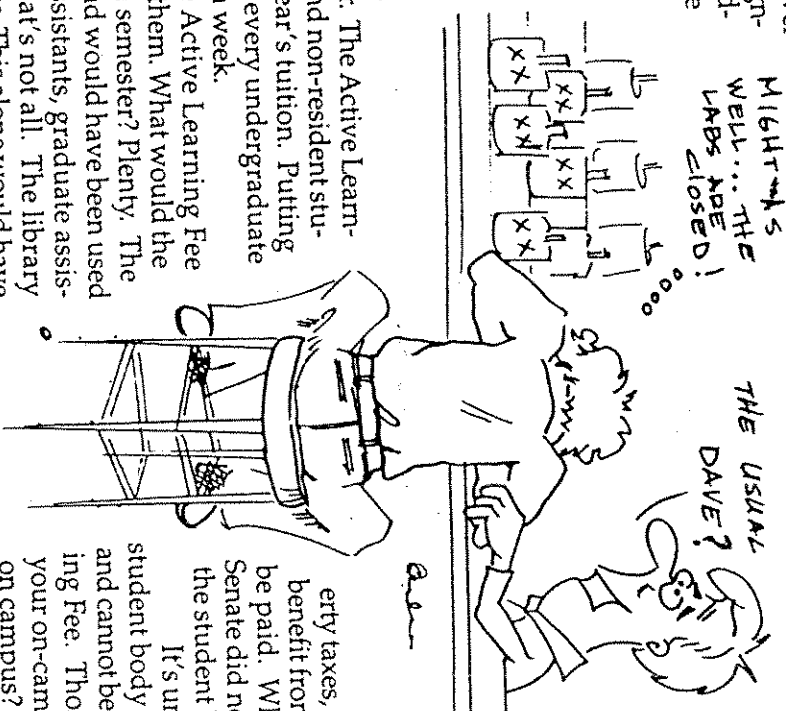
Stoutonia

Students pay for bad decision

As the semester starts to wind down, we hear many students echoing the same phrase over and over again, "I couldn't get my lab assignment done because the lab was closed," or "I couldn't get to the library to do my research because the library was closed." These excuses are not always because the student has a time management problem. In many cases, it is because less work-study and state payroll money has been available to keep the library and labs open.

A solution was recently proposed to alleviate the problem. The Active Learning Fee was proposed to keep the labs open longer, and it also would have eliminated the fee for co-ops and experiential learning. The Senate voted the resolution down, and it's a dead issue this year. The Active Learning Fee would have cost each undergraduate and non-resident student an extra \$53 per semester, based on this year's tuition. Putting it into perspective, it would have cost each and every undergraduate student less than the price of a pitcher of beer a week.

Many who attended the forums about the Active Learning Fee expressed concern about how it would benefit them. What would the student body have received for the extra \$53 a semester? Plenty. The fees collected would have stayed on campus and would have been used for additional student employees, teaching assistants, graduate assistants and technicians to staff our labs. But that's not all. The library would have added additional research databases. This alone would have saved students 7 to 10 days in research because there wouldn't be a wait for interlibrary loans. Also, free printing of full-text articles and one addi-



tional academic librarian would have been available. The return on the fee would have more than made up for the \$53 charge.

On Thursday, April 10, 1997, the advisory board for the Graphic Communications Management majors had a panel discussion.

"When compared to other universities, you have some of the best labs available for hands-on experiential learning," panelist Dave Peterson from Color Response said.

Doesn't that sound great? Industry leaders say we have top-of-the-line labs on campus. But if the labs are closed, how can students get the great hands-on experience we need to land high-paying jobs?

If we liken the Active Learning Fee to that of property taxes, we know that not everyone who pays receives a direct benefit from paying property taxes. But property taxes still must be paid. Why? It's for the good of our society. It's too bad the Senate did not see the Active Learning Fee as something good for the student body at large.

It's unfortunate that the Senate decided to shoot the entire student body at Stout in their feet. The issue is dead for this year and cannot be brought up again under auspices of the Active Learning Fee. Those having problems getting into labs should contact your on-campus representative. Don't know who represents you on campus? Stop by the SOC desk in the Memorial Student Center. In the meantime, don't cry for the Senate, for they did not realize what they did for the student body.

OUR OPINION

Budget offers UW flexibility

Gov. Tommy Thompson's budget bill gives the University of Wisconsin System what it has long asked for: The ability to be a lot quicker on its feet. As the Legislature begins its review of Thompson's 1997-99 budget, it should look upon the UW's bid for "management flexibility" not as an attempt to dodge state oversight — but to make higher education more accountable to the changing needs of students and the marketplace.

Proposals outlined in the biennial budget would allow the UW System to react more quickly to changing budgetary and academic needs. For example, UW campuses could spend one-time surpluses in auxiliary funds on a number of student activities — if the Regents and students agreed. The system would also take a more entrepreneurial approach to its credit outreach programs, most of which serve non-traditional students. With more flexibility, the UW could design programs to serve businesses whose employees want to earn a degree or take additional credit courses while they're working.

The most controversial change would allow the Regents to collect and spend up to 105 percent of tuition revenues set by the Legislature. What that means, among other things, is that the Regents may use tuition dollars to supplement the state pay plan for UW employees.

Last fall, the Regents asked the state to grant employees 4 percent annual raises in each of the next two years to keep UW's compensation competitive with other universities. If the state's appropriation falls short for any reason — which would be a shortsighted move by the Legislature — the Regents could

consider using the "105 percent solution" to make up the difference.

The Regents would continue to set tuition rates and the Legislature would continue to approve overall tuition levels. But if the Regents chose to do so, they could use some part of the 105 percent tuition authority to increase compensation *without* asking the taxpayers for more help.

Of course, some students and their parents may not relish the thought of paying what amounts to a tuition surcharge. But others will recognize that unless all Wisconsin campuses attract and retain top-shelf faculty, the value of a UW degree will diminish over time. For them, the extra money is an investment in a more successful future.

Faculty pay in the UW System already runs well behind compensation levels in peer colleges and universities. It will become tougher to hire and keep good faculty if that gap grows any larger. Complicating the challenge is the fact that up to 25 percent of the UW System's faculty — about 1,800 professors — could retire in the next four years. Those veteran educators and researchers mustn't be replaced with second-tier professors.

Thompson's budget provides \$40.1 million in new general-purpose revenue spending, an increase of 2.4 percent over the 1996-97 base of \$841 million. It also spends \$15.6 million to help link all UW campuses into "BadgerNet," the state-owned fiber optic network. Those are adequate investments that should be approved by the Legislature, which should also grant the UW the flexibility it needs to react to ever-changing conditions in the higher education marketplace.

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